

Draft

Summary of Conversation with Virginia Reeves - 28 November 1960

[] and [] spoke with Miss Reeves at lunch on 28 November. Miss Reeves was on her way to New York City where she has established permanent quarters, after spending the holiday with her family in South Carolina. She indicated that she has taken an apartment in a newly constructed building on Lexington Avenue and 89th(?). She intends to pursue her writing career. She has an article on her month-long trip to Czechoslovakia this summer which she has offered to a Catholic magazine. [] She delivered a letter in a sealed envelope and two other items from DESDEMONA. DESDEMONA had suffered another heart attack. (These are actually blood stream spasms which can be counteracted if they are caught in time.) Miss Reeves had telephoned Rome and had found him resting and recovering, but immobilised. The attack confirmed in her opinion that DESDEMONA will probably be unable ever to return to gainful employment. DESDEMONA has taken a ground floor apartment in the building where he has lived for the past years and he is cared for by his daughter Virginia who comes down to Rome periodically. [] She asked what was the status of action on DESDEMONA's request for additional compensation. She was interested she said in helping assure him an adequate income during his declining years. She was assured that DESDEMONA's friends were doing everything possible to achieve the fairest consideration of his situation, that a determination was still in course. [] stated his personal view flatly that DESDEMONA had no case for additional compensation on the line of argument he had taken in his letter to []. The attempt to bring about an ex post facto reconsideration of the monetary value of his work from 1946 to the Libyan episode, [] stated was misguided and bound to fail. DESDEMONA's argument would have been more persuasive in []'s opinion if he had based it entirely on the permanent damage he had suffered as a consequence of the Libyan accident. Miss Reeves stated that the important thing was to arrange some device whereby money -- if necessary her own money -- could be gotten to the man. He refused, she said, to accept any kind of direct subsidy from her or her family. Could we, she asked, agree to ~~transfer~~ transfer funds originating with her to him? She said her father ~~would~~ would approve an arrangement of this kind. She estimated DESDEMONA's current financial reserve at about a million and a half lire. No comment was offered by [] or

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[] on this suggestion. It was []'s impression that Miss Reeves is chiefly interested in exhausting the possibility of assuring DESDEMONA some kind of financial support from the Americans with whom he had been in contact. She did not give the impression, jointly or separately, they had worked out a program for public or legal action on the matter. (DESDEMONA's letter, however, included a reference to a legal action which had been recommended by Nune against the Libyan government.)

Ezra Pound is now living with his daughter in the Alto Adige Castle. Apparently the poet had worn down the energies of everyone in Rome including DESDEMONA.

Miss Reeves' stay in Czechoslovakia had lasted a month. She said at no time had she had the impression that she was under observation or surveillance. However, she had had to wait a considerable period for her visa.